

# Active Transportation Alliance: Suburban Bikeways for All



Jim Merrell  
Advocacy Director



# Overview

- Chicagoland's advocacy voice for better biking, walking and transit
- Member-based not-for-profit organization
- Serve Chicago metro region
- Founded 1985 as Chicagoland Bicycle Federation
- 7,000 members and 20,000+ supporters
- 33 full-time staff, plus part-time and seasonal

# Our Mission

To promote walking, bicycling, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable and equitable communities.

# Our “50/50” Goal

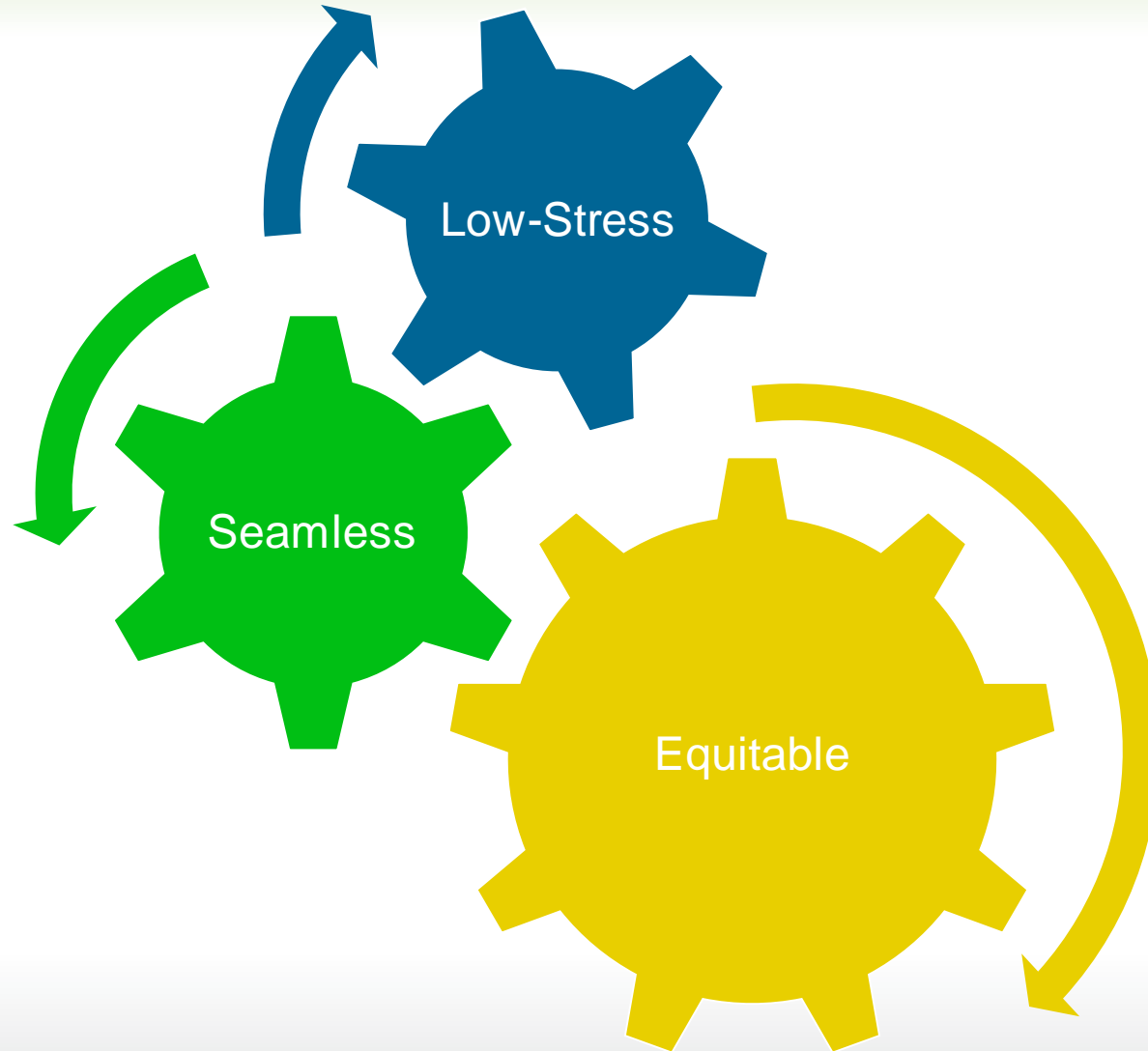
We envision the region with **half as many crashes** and where **half of all trips** are made by **walking, biking and transit**.



# Strategic Focus Areas



# Our Vision: Bikeways for All





# Step One: City of Chicago Report (2015)



**Bikeways *for* All**  
ENVISIONING CHICAGO'S BIKE NETWORK



ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ALLIANCE



ACTIVE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ALLIANCE

Chicagoland's voice for better biking, walking and transit.

# Step Two: Suburban Bikeways for All

- Outreach & Communication Tool
  - State of Biking in the Suburbs
  - Models of Successful Communities & Projects
  - Action Steps for Local, Regional, and State Government
- Focus: Promoting biking as everyday transportation in NE Illinois suburban contexts





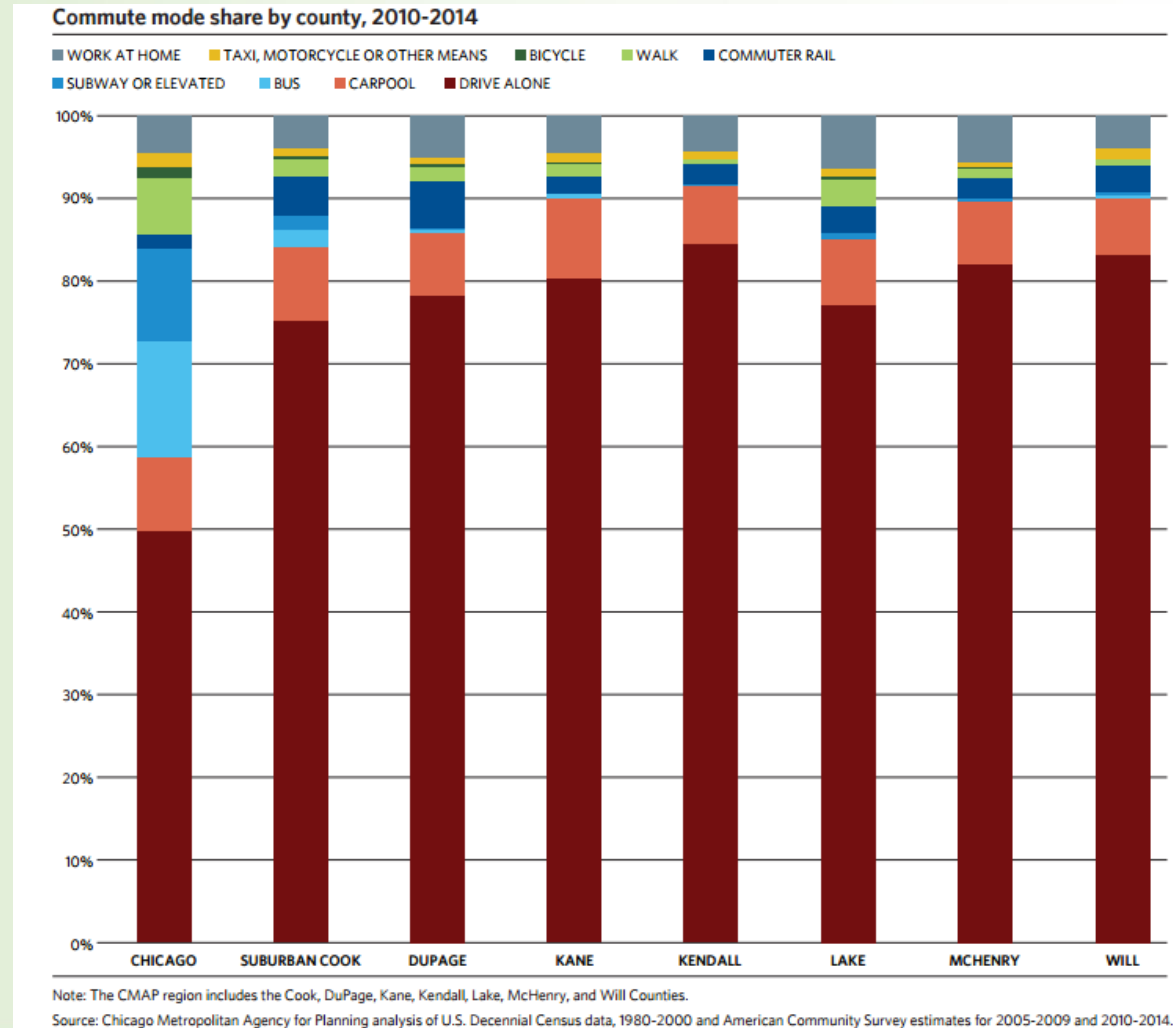


# State of Biking in the Suburbs

# Bicycle Modeshare in the Suburbs

According to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), trips by bicycle represent less than 1% of trips in the region, but this number doubled between 2000 and 2014, growing faster than any other mode.

*Image: CMAP*

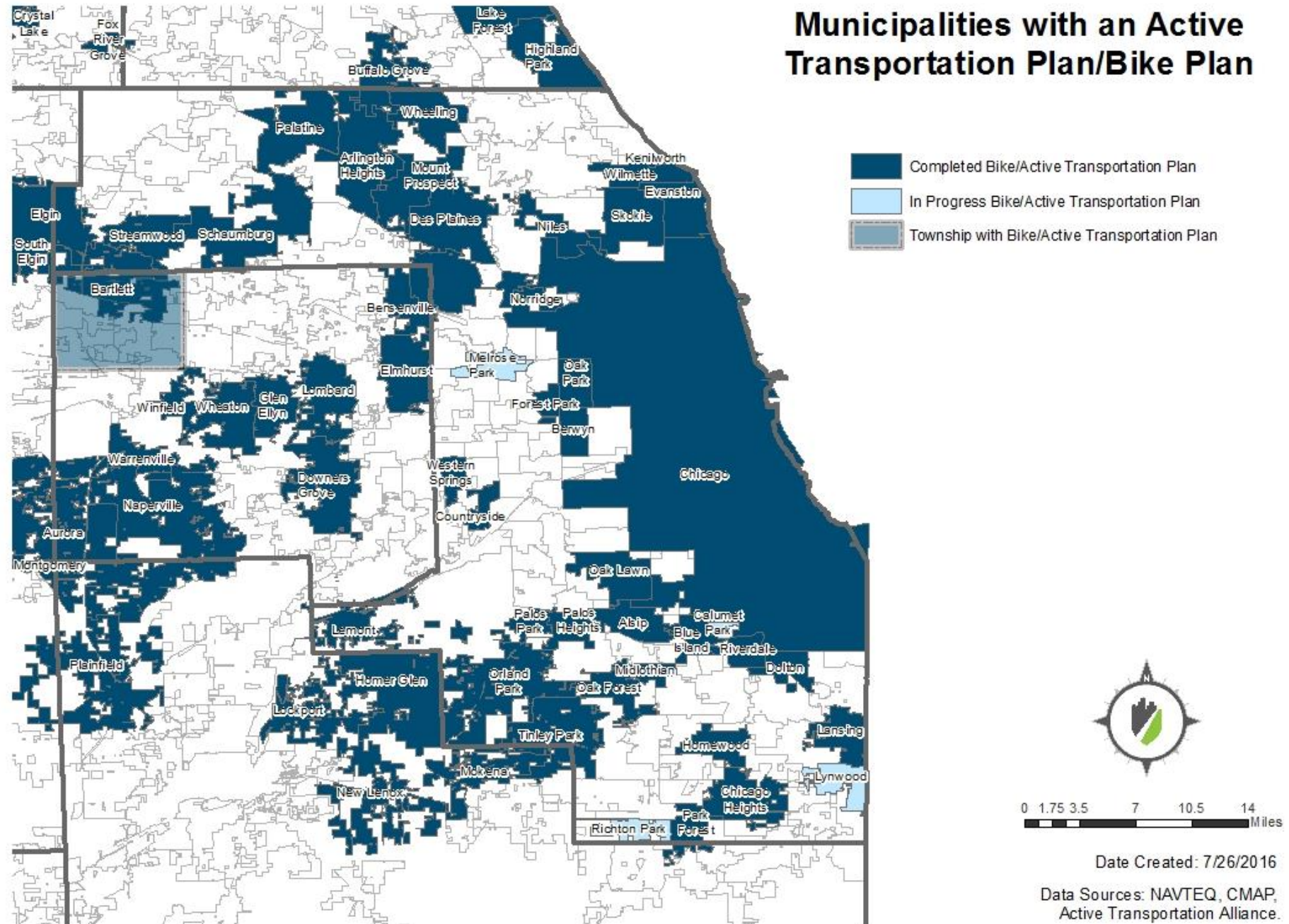


# Infrastructure, Policies, and Plans



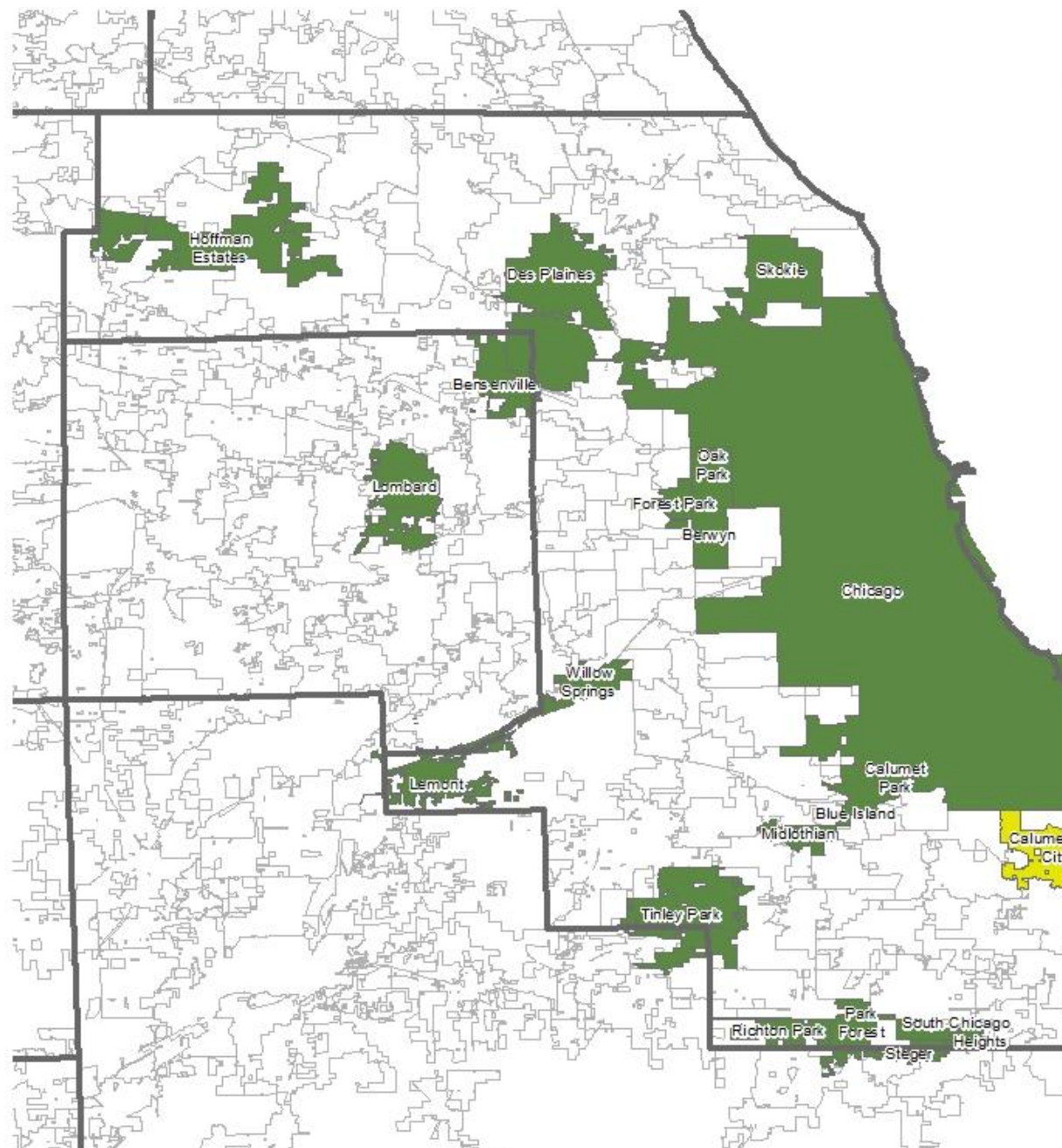
- **Off-Street Trails:** 4,000 miles of paved trails, unpaved trails suitable for biking, and sidepaths in NE Illinois
- **On-Street Bike Lanes:** 15 miles of striped bike lanes – unreliable data and does not include marked routes or sharrows
- **Plans & Policies:** 70 communities with Active Transportation Plans and/or Complete Streets Policies (that we know of)

## Municipalities with an Active Transportation Plan/Bike Plan





## Municipalities with a Complete Streets Policy



- Policy Complete
- Policy Under Development



0 1.75 3.5 7 10.5 14 Miles

Date Created: 7/26/2016

Data Sources: NAVTEQ, CMAP,  
Active Transportation Alliance.

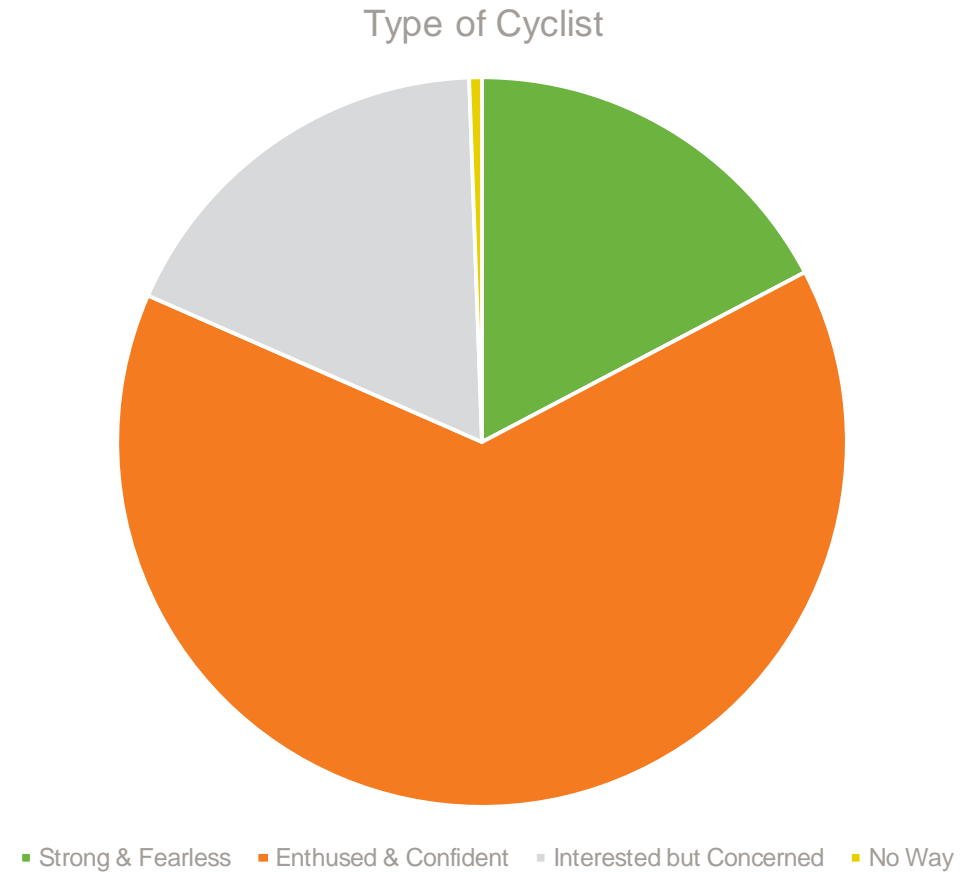
# Bicycle Crashes & Fatalities

	City of Chicago	Cook County*	Cook County suburbs	Lake County	Will County	DuPage County	Kane County	Kendall County	McHenry County	Chicago Region	State of Illinois
2012 Crashes	1578	2277	699	124	86	198	99	12	49	2845	3423
2014 Crashes	1664	2283	619	86	82	150	80	13	36	2730	3267
	City of Chicago	Cook County*	Cook County suburbs	Lake County	Will County	DuPage County	Kane County	Kendall County	McHenry County	Chicago Region	State of Illinois
2012 Fatalities	8	13	5	1	1	0	0	0	1	16	28
2014 Fatalities	6	12	6	8	2	3	1	0	0	26	27

*Source: Illinois Department of Transportation*

# What You Told Us: Supporter Survey

Rank	Priority
1	Installing protected bike lanes and other on-street bikeways
2	Improving intersections and crossings
3	Creating more off-street trails and paths
4	Providing better access from my town to trails
5	Improving bike access to shopping/dining
6	Improving bike access to transit stations
7	Improving bike access to school





# Models of Success: Communities & Projects



## Bensenville

Health-related funding for planning

Focus on active living to fight chronic disease

New CS policy and off-street trail in the works

## Chicago Heights

Education & encouragement

Innovative programming

Strong planning & policy; new trail connections

## Lowell, IN

Strong leadership & institutionalized advocacy

First CS policy in NWI

Looking at Erie Lackawanna extension for regional connection

## Aurora

Livability & Economic Development

Robust Bike/Ped plan

Regional connections w/ innovative infrastructure

## Evanston

Regional Lab

3% modeshare (but its still hard!)

Updated bike plan, three protected bike lanes, Divvy bike share

# Protected Bike Lanes (Cycletracks)



- Physical barrier provides separation
- Suitable for busy arterials
- ~20 miles installed in Chicago
- Evanston & Aurora
- Active Trans 'Pop-Ups'

# Neighborhood Greenways/Bike Boulevards

- Mix of treatments to optimize quiet side streets for biking and walking
  - Roundabouts
  - Contra-flow lanes
  - Curb bump-outs
  - Bike signals
- Oak Park & Highland Park





# Off-Street Trails



- Ultimate low-stress bikeway
- Off-street, multi-use or dedicated paths
- Often re-purposed infrastructure
- ~4,000 miles in NE Illinois, but lack of connectivity
- CMAP Regional Greenways & Trails Plan helps to prioritize connections, update to be published in 2016



# Bike Share



- Divvy – Evanston & Oak Park
- Zagster – Aurora
- Bike & Roll – Forest Preserve District of Cook County

# Action Steps for Local, Regional, and State Government

# Local Actions by Suburbs

1. Pass a local Complete Streets Policy
2. Adopt and implement an Active Transportation Plan
3. Incorporate Vision Zero
4. Calm and slow traffic at intersections and on local streets
5. Embrace development that is mixed-used and relatively dense
6. Include a fair share of budget for walking and biking
7. Ensure strong implementation through goal setting and community accountability

# Regional Actions

1. Prioritize non-motorized modes in ONTO2050
2. Create incentives for bike- and walk-friendly development near transit stations
3. Ensure regionally programmed funding source prioritize active modes such as bicycling
4. Provide additional training and technical assistance to communities with limited staff capacity
5. Assist communities with limited local funds in raising local match money for federally funded projects



# State Actions

1. Invest state dollars in bikeways projects and programs, including targeted support for planning and construction in high-need communities
2. Implement the Illinois State Bike Transportation Plan
3. Evaluate and report on the implementation of state Complete Streets to date and make improvements

# What you can do

## Get connected

- Sign up for our newsletters and advocacy alerts at [activetrans.org](http://activetrans.org)

## Be a leader

- Help us build the movement by connecting your friends and family to Active Trans, Ride Illinois, and other groups

## Take action

- Join our Active Transportation Councils or help start one in your region

# Thank you!

**Jim Merrell**

*Advocacy Director*

T: 312.216.0470

jim@activetrans.org

